

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 L-03 OIC-04

CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:CGRIP:CLARA

APPROVED BY IO/TRC - MR. GRIP

CG - CAPTAIN HINTZE

EB/MA - MR. BANK

L/EB - MR. WILLIS

OIC - MRS. O'DELL

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R 262311Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: IMCO

SUBJECT: IMCO: SOLAS CONFERENCE

1. US IS CONCERNED THAT OCTOBER 21 - NOVEMBER 1 "MINI" SOLAS CONFERENCE BE HELD SCRUPULOUSLY TO NARROW PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS BEING CONVENED, AND BELIEVE THAT THIS CONCERN IS WIDELY SHARED (NOTABLY BY UK). SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF CONFERENCE MAY BE CRITICAL FACTOR IN ASSURING THIS OBJECTIVE IS MET.

2. WE UNDERSTAND MSC SECRETARY SAVELIEV MAY BE PROMOTING SELECTION OF ERICKSON (SWEDEN) FOR CHAIRMAN. FYI. SAVELIEV FLOATED IDEA TO RADM REA DURING LAST MSC MEETING.END.FYI. WHILE NOT OPPOSED TO ERICKSON, WE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO SEE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN EDWARDS TAKE CHAIR AT CONFERENCE. AS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HE MIGHT BE IN BETTER POSITION TO ASSURE THAT "MINI" SOLAS ADDRESSES ITSELF TO CONFERENCE SUBJECT
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MATTER WITH MAXIMUM ATENTION TO ITS NARROWLY DEFINED

TASK. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE FOR COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TO ASSUME ROLE AS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN IN VIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS FOR IMCO AND MSC OF SOLAS AMENDMENT PROCEDURES UNDER CONSIDERATION. EDWARDS IS PREPARED TO SERVE AS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY CONSULT WITH SAVELIEV AND/OR OTHER SENIOR IMCO OFFICIALS TO PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR EDWARDS

SELECTION, WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SECURE, SO FAR AS POSSIBL THROUGH SUCH ADVANCE CONSULTATION. REQUEST EMBASSY ALSO CONSULT WITH UK AUTHORITIES , AND SUGGEST THEY REINFORCE US EFFORTS TO ASSURE SELECTION OF EDWARDS. EMBASSY SHOULD REPORT RESULTS SO THAT US DELEGATION MAY BE IN POSITION TO PURSUE OUR OBJECTIVE IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS DURING IMCO COUNCIL SESSION. KISSINGER

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